



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 322

February Session, 2002

***AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE FUNDED WORK-STUDY PROGRAM
FOR TANF RECIPIENTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section and section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as amended by this
3 act:

4 (1) "Needy person" means any parent or caretaker relative of a
5 minor child who is a member of a needy family, as defined by the state
6 plan for the temporary assistance for needy families program.

7 (2) "Eligible participant" means a person who is currently receiving
8 benefits from the temporary family assistance program or any other
9 needy person, whether or not such person is currently enrolled in an
10 eligible training program.

11 (3) "Eligible training program" means any training program
12 administered or operated by an eligible provider, as defined in section
13 31-111 of the general statutes, or any training or education program
14 offered by an accredited public or independent institution of higher
15 education in this state.

16 (b) The Labor Department shall:

17 (1) Establish a state funded work-study program for needy persons

18 in eligible training programs;

19 (2) Provide transportation assistance to needy persons participating
20 in the state funded work-study program established pursuant to
21 subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

22 (3) Provide case management and such other support services as the
23 Labor Commissioner deems necessary to needy persons participating
24 in the state funded work-study program established pursuant to
25 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

26 (c) In administering the state funded work-study program
27 established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section,
28 the Labor Department shall (1) give priority for participation to eligible
29 participants whose family incomes are at or below the federal poverty
30 level, (2) reserve fifteen per cent of all available work-study positions
31 for eligible participants seeking to enroll in training and education
32 programs for nontraditional occupations, as identified by the United
33 States Department of Labor, (3) require eligible participants to enroll in
34 training and education programs that prepare job seekers for
35 occupations in demand in this state, as identified by the Labor
36 Department, (4) require that the rate of compensation paid to eligible
37 participants participating in the work-study program be not less than
38 the minimum fair wage set forth in section 31-58 of the general statutes
39 and not more than nine dollars per hour, (5) make work-study
40 positions subject to the worker displacement provisions of Section 407
41 of Title IV of the Social Security Act, and (6) structure the work-study
42 program to enable an eligible participant's family to be independent of
43 temporary family assistance by the end of the twenty-one-month time
44 limit for such assistance and increase the participant's ability to achieve
45 economic self-sufficiency.

46 (d) To be eligible to participate in the state funded work-study
47 program established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of
48 this section, an eligible participant shall (1) enroll in and attend an
49 eligible training program on at least a half-time basis, as defined by the

50 eligible provider, or (2) if the eligible training program is administered
51 by a public or independent institution of higher education, take
52 sufficient courses to qualify for a Federal Pell Grant.

53 (e) Eligible participants may participate in the state funded work-
54 study program for at least thirty-two weeks and may participate for
55 longer periods of time with prior approval from the Labor Department
56 and the administrator of the eligible training program or public or
57 independent institution of higher education.

58 (f) The Labor Commissioner shall adopt such regulations, in
59 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, as are necessary to
60 carry out the provisions of this section.

61 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is
62 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
63 *1, 2002*):

64 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and operate
65 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
66 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
67 who is working, attending high school, participating in a work-study
68 program pursuant to section 1 of this act, or who receives cash
69 assistance under the temporary family assistance program from the
70 Department of Social Services and is participating in an approved
71 education, training, or other job preparation activity. Services available
72 under the child care program shall include the provision of child care
73 subsidies for children under the age of thirteen or children under the
74 age of nineteen with special needs.

75 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) For the fiscal years ending June
76 30, 2003, and June 30, 2004, the sum of one million dollars shall be
77 transferred from the federal temporary assistance for needy families
78 block grant to the Labor Department for purposes of establishing and
79 operating a work-study program pursuant to section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2002</i>

WFD*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

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